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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,113	07/31/2001	Suman K. Patel	56904US002	3453
32692	7590	09/09/2004	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY PO BOX 33427 ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			EGAN, BRIAN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1772	

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Supplemental  
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/919,113

Examiner

Brian P. Egan

Applicant(s)

PATEL ET AL.

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the notice of allowance mailed 4/29/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8, 11-14 and 16-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 31 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other attached

**NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. The 1.321 amendment as filed is non-compliant for failing to present claims consistent with the examiner's amendment provided in the previous notice of allowance filed April 29, 2004. Therefore, consistent with the examiner's response to the 1.321 amendment submitted by the applicant, the examiner has amended claim 1 to reflect the changes proposed by the applicant. The examiner's amendment provided below is supplemental to the examiner's amendment provided in the previous office action and the applicant's period for response has continued since the mailing date of the original notice of allowance. The reasons for allowance provided in the previous office action remain proper and the amendment provided below merely corrects antecedent basis problems in claim 1. The application has been amended as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**CLAIM 1:**

- Line 5, delete the word "substrate" before "exhibits".
- Line 5, insert the phrase -- retroreflective sheeting -- after "the" and before "exhibits".
- Line 8, delete the word "substrate" after "greater than the".
- Line 8, insert the phrase -- retroreflective sheeting -- after "greater than the".

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian P. Egan whose telephone number is 571-272-1491. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Y. Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Brian P. Egan*  
BPE 9/1/04

*William P. Watkins III*  
*Acting For Harold Pyon*

WILLIAM P. WATKINS III  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

<b>Response to Rule 312 Communication</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/919,113	PATEL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brian P. Egan	1772	

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1. ☒ The amendment filed on 21 May 2004 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

- a) ☐ entered.
- b) ☐ entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.
- c) ☐ disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.

Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.

- d) ☒ disapproved. See explanation below.
- e) ☐ entered in part. See explanation below.

*The amendment will not be entered because the claims as submitted fail to reflect the examiner's amendment to the claims submitted in the notice of allowance filed April 29, 2004. The examiner's amendment cancelled claims 9, 10, 15, and 41-44 and changed the dependencies of claims 16-18 from depending on claim 15 to dependant upon independent claim 1. Nonetheless, a supplemental notice of allowance with an examiner's amendment is submitted herewith to facilitate the applicant's proposed amendment to claim 1.*

*William P. Watkins III*  
 WILLIAM P. WATKINS III  
 PRIMARY EXAMINER  
*Acting For Noriko Pyon SPE*

*Brian P. Egan*  
 9/1/04